

As an Agriculturist his greatest interest was taken in improvements of system: Lord Walsingham was President of the Ensilage Commission, and of the Smithfield Club, 1877 (V-P. 1874, etc.)—the Merton flock of Southdowns was famous throughout the world.

As a sportsman he contributed the articles on the Pheasant, Partridge, and Grouse to the Badminton Library; and was one of the most famous shots. On his Blubberhouses Moor, Yorkshire, Lord Walsingham killed with his own gun 842 grouse—this was on August 28th, 1872, but the Record Bag of Grouse was made on the same moor, August 30th, 1888, when 1070 grouse fell to his gun in 14 hours 18 minutes.

A man truly kind by nature, generous and sympathetic, he was ever ready to assist those in need in the most kindly way. All who knew him loved him, and would agree that he was entitled to re-echo the words:

“ I know what pleasure is,  
for I have done good work.”

DRNT.

[The photograph of Lord Walsingham, taken at the age of 70, was issued by mistake in the January number. It should face this memoir.—EDS.]

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NOTES ON THE AUSTRALIAN COLEOPTEROUS GENERA  
*PALAESTRA* CAST., *TMESIDERA* WESTW., AND *PALAESTRIDA* WHITE  
(FAM. *MELOÏDÆ*).

BY K. G. BLAIR, B.Sc., F.E.S.

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When endeavouring recently to identify some Meloïd beetles collected by Mr. G. E. Bryant in Australia I soon found that there was considerable confusion as regards the above genera, which are closely related to the Australian representatives of *Zonitis*. The species are all of the same colour-pattern, viz. black with red elytra, and not only were the identifications in the British Museum Collection unsatisfactory, but the recent Catalogue of the family (Borchmann in “Junk’s Coleopterorum Catalogus,” pars 69, 1917) also indicates that the genera are very imperfectly known,

*Palaestra* Castelnau (1840) was based upon a single Australian species, *P. rubripennis*; it was placed in the *Oedemeridae* near *Calopus*. *Tmesidera* Westwood (1841), fam. *Meloïdæ*, included one

species, *T. rufipennis*; to this in 1842 Hope added three others, viz. *assimilis*, *rubricollis*, and *violacea*. *Palaestrída* White (1846), allied to the above, included one species, *P. bicolor*. Subsequently, four others, *eucera*, *platycera*, *quadrifoveata*, and *rufocincta*, were added by Fairmaire to *Palaestra*, and three, *concolor*, *flabellicornis*, and *nigripennis*, by Macleay to *Palaestrída*.

Fortunately, the description of *Palaestra rubripennis* Cast. is such that the species can be recognized with tolerable certainty.

By the kindness of Professor Poulton I have been able to examine the types of Westwood's and Hope's species of *Tmesidera* with some very interesting results. In his description of *T. rufipennis* Westwood refers to two specimens, one in his own collection, the other in that of Hope. Both these specimens are now in the Hope Department at Oxford, and prove to belong to different though allied species. The individual from Westwood's own collection is that from which the description and figure are taken, and must be regarded as the type; that from Hope's collection is *Palaestra rubripennis* Cast.; the latter bears the locality label "Tasm<sup>a</sup>." The two species are certainly congeneric, so that, as suggested by Blackburn (Proc. Roy. Soc. S. Austr. xxiii, 1899, p. 60), the name *Tmesidera* Westw. becomes a synonym of *Palaestra* Cast.

The three species added by Hope do not belong to *Tmesidera*. *T. assimilis* is identical with *Palaestrída bicolor* White, the type of which, from the N. or N.W. coast of Australia, is in the British Museum. The species therefore becomes *Palaestrída assimilis* Hope.

*T. violacea* Hope belongs to *Zonitis* and is identical with *Z. rugosipennis* Fairm. It is rather a dark form with the prothorax completely black above, though obscurely red on the sides. The colour of the thorax in this species varies from being entirely red to entirely black; the type of *rugosipennis* is described as having a red thorax with a median black stripe. *Z. aspericeps* Blackb. (type in the British Museum) is probably only a variety of the same in which the legs and underside are also black. Of *T. rubricollis* Hope no specimen bearing this name in Hope's handwriting is to be found at Oxford, though an old example of *Zonitis rugata* Fairm., in the Hope Collection without a label, is probably the missing type. In the British Museum *T. rubricollis* Hope is also identified with this species.

Of the species added by Fairmaire to *Palaestra*, *P. platycera* (specimen from Champion Bay, W. Australia, identified by Fairmaire)

is identical with *Palaestrída bicolor* White, the description of which was probably unknown to him. This species seems to have a wide range in Australia and to exhibit considerable variation, not only in size but in the shape and sculpture of the thorax and in the colour of the elytra; e.g. of two specimens from Queensland one is practically identical with the types of *assimilis* Hope and *bicolor* White, the other is very much larger, length 18 mm., with a transverse thorax, of which the sides are more strongly sinuate in front and the discal impressions much stronger. This I take to be *P. eucera* Fairm. Were it alone this insect might well be considered a distinct species, but a similar pair comes from Swan River with numerous intermediate forms. One specimen is labelled "Victoria," another "Gawler, S.A." In a few cases the dorsal area of the elytra is more or less clouded with black. *P. quadrifoveata* and *P. rufocincta* I have not been able to determine with certainty, but Blackburn was probably right (*loc. cit.*) in identifying *P. quadrifoveata* with *rufipennis* Westw., though his assumption that both were identical with *rubripennis* Cast. was incorrect. *P. rufocincta*, from description, would appear to be only a colour variety of the same species. Such a variety of *Palaestrída assimilis*, though to a less marked degree, is noted above, and analogous variation in the very similar Oedemerid genus *Pseudolycus* is highly developed.

The three species assigned with some doubt by Macleay to *Palaestrída* cannot, from the descriptions, belong to this genus; they should probably be placed in *Morpholycus* Lea (fam. Oedemeridae). *P. flabellicornis* Macl. appears to be identical with *M. serraticornis* Lea.

Certain species of *Zonitis* of similar coloration (*Z. opacorufa* Fairm.) are apt to be confused with *Palaestra* and *Palaestrída*, but may be distinguished by their slender antennae, the joints of which are cylindrical instead of compressed and expanded.

*Palaestra* and *Palaestrída* though closely allied may be separated by the elytral sculpture. In *Palaestra* the elytra are glabrous, with the suture and four sharply-defined, round, raised costae on each, the intervals between the costae being rather coarsely rugulose punctate or granulate. In *Palaestrída* they are closely and finely punctate and pubescent, each with four raised costae, but these merge more gradually into the intervals. In *Palaestra* the sides of the thorax are usually angulate in the middle and roundly emarginate in the anterior half, but this is only an exaggerated degree of the form found in *Palaestrída* (and frequently, too, in *Zonitis*), viz. strongly narrowed in the anterior half, the sides sinuate before the middle.

Of *Palaestra* I can recognize three species as follows:—

1. Head triangular, widest behind eyes, vertex deeply cleft; thorax with wide median furrow throughout, sides strongly excised in anterior half, anterior discal impressions very large, following lateral emarginations.

.....2.

Head more elongate, widest across eyes, vertex feebly impressed; thorax strongly narrowed in front, the sides sinuate, feebly emarginate, median furrow distinct only in basal half, anterior pair of discal impressions deep and round, similar to posterior pair; intervals between elytral costae densely, rather coarsely punctate ..... *foveicollis*, sp. n.

2. Thorax subopaque, rather densely punctate; intervals between elytral costae granulate ..... *rubripennis* Cast.

Thorax nitid, very sparsely punctate; intervals between elytral costae punctate-rugulose, forming a partial intermediate costa in second interval ..... *rufipennis* Westw.

*P. foveicollis*, sp. n.

Elongate, black, subnitid, elytra red. Head elongate-triangular, not widened behind eyes, densely rugose punctate, vertex feebly impressed. Clypeus almost impunctate in front; labrum rather transverse, with median impression, lightly emarginate at apex. Antennae more than half as long as body, the joints compressed and expanded, 3rd to 6th about half as long again as their width at apex, 7th to 11th successively narrower. Thorax widest in middle, its width at apex about half that in middle, the sides feebly sinuate, scarcely excised, in apical half; disc with a strong median furrow in basal half, and two pairs of deep round foveae, the posterior pair separated by the median furrow, surface plainly but not closely punctate. Scutellum rounded at apex, densely and finely punctate and pubescent. Elytra about three times as long as together broad, subparallel, separately rounded at apex, glabrous, each with the suture and four sharply defined costae smooth, rounded, the intervals between them densely, rather coarsely punctate, the 3rd and 4th costae are confluent near the shoulder, the latter gradually approaching the external margin. Length 13–15 mm.

*Hab.* N. Sydney and Blue Mts. (*G. E. Bryant*), Cumberland, N.S.W. (*Mus. Brit.*).

The form of the thorax characteristic of *Palaestra*, with the sides roundly excised before the middle, is but feebly developed in this species, indicating an approach to *Palaestrída*. The sculpture of the elytra is, however, very different from that of the latter genus, and essentially of the *Palaestra* type. I am unable to identify *P. foveicollis* with any of the species described; *P. quadrifoveata* Fairm., to which it seems, *ex descr.*, to approach in the form of the thorax, has, *inter alia*, the last joint of the maxillary palpi testaceous, the antennal joints prismatic, scarcely dilated, and the scutellum smooth, impressed.

Of *Palaestrída* I can recognize but one species, *P. assimilis* Hope (*bicolor* White, *platycera* Fairm., *eucera* Fairm.).

*Summary of Conclusions.*

PALAESTRÁ Cast. (*Tmesidera* Westw.).

1. *P. rubripennis* Cast.
2. *P. rufipennis* Westw. (*Tmesidera*).  
? *quadriforeata* Fairm.  
? var. *rufocincta* Fairm.
3. *P. foreicollis* sp. n.

PALAESTRIDA White.

1. *P. assimilis* Hope (*Tmesidera*).  
*bicolor* White.  
*platycera* Fairm. (*Palaestra*).  
*eucera* Fairm. (*Palaestra*).

ZONITIS.

1. *Z. violacea* Hope (*Tmesidera*).  
*rugosipennis* Fairm.  
var. *aspericeps* Blackb.
2. *Z. rubricollis* Hope (*Tmesidera*).  
*rugata* Fairm.

? MORPHOLYCUS Lea (*Oedemeridae*).

1. *M. concolor* Macl. (*Palaestrída*).
2. *M. flabellicornis* Macl. (*Palaestrída*).  
? *serraticornis* Lea.
3. *M. nigripennis* Macl. (*Palaestrída*).

November 28th, 1919.

NOTES ON BRITISH PSAMMOCHARIDAE (POMPILIDAE).

BY R. C. L. PERKINS, M.A., D.SC., F.Z.S.

The *Psammocharidae*, until recently known as *Pompilidae*, is one of the most difficult families of the Aculeate Hymenoptera and contains vast numbers of species, the group being distributed over almost all parts of the world. The few British species have been treated very differently by various writers. Smith recognized in them only three genera, *Aporus*, *Pompilus*, and *Cropales*; Saunders in his "Synopsis" six, but in his later work he followed Kohl in separating *Pseudagenia* from *Agenia* and *Calicurgus* from *Salix* and in sinking *Aporus* and *Evagetes* under *Pompilus*. Ashmead in his classification of the world's genera, as then known, divided the family into no fewer than six subfamilies, recognizing as valid nearly all the previously described genera and erecting many new ones. It is not possible to place even our few species in their proper genera, or even sometimes in his subfamilies, by the use of Ashmead's tables, because, in the first place, not only genera but even groups of genera are separated therein on minute characters of neuration, which are so variable that they are not even of specific value, such variations being frequent in different examples of a single species; and, secondly, because other characters that he uses are sometimes incorrect or imaginary. It is probable, however, that, as is the case in other groups of Hymenoptera with which he has dealt, a considerable proportion of this author's genera will be found valid, although the characters are insufficiently or incorrectly described.